opportunities. The WTO Agreements were a package where some provisions have benefited us, whlie others have imposed onerous obligations. An open, fair and rule based trading system is in the interest of developing countries like India, as it protects Members from unilateral action by stronger trading partners. In this connection it may be noted that several developing countries, including China, are currently seeking accession to WTO.

(b) To graner support for the Indian stand on various issues at WTO, India has coordinated with important developing country groupings, such as the SAARC, the G-15 and the G-77. Our proposal for implementation issues have been tabled in the WTO jointly with 11 other likeminded Group of developing countries. In the Third Ministerial Conference of WTO, held at Seattle between 30th November to 3rd December, 1999, India's call for upfront redressal of the implementation concerns of developing countries and opposition to the linkage of trade with core labour standards etc., received support of a number of developing countries. As part of post-Seattle efforts, India has actively participated as a member of the G-77 Group in the X Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held at Bangkok during 12-19 February, 2000, wherein a Plan of Action was adopted which incorporates the main concerns of the developing countires.

(c) At the Seattle Ministerial Conference of WTO, India had effectively opposed the linkage of trade with core labour standards and attempts for the further expansion of the linkage between trade and environment in the WTO. It also created pressure for the early redressal of implementation problems being experienced by the developing countries. The Seattle Ministerial Conference, however, could reach no conclusions due to wide divergence of views between Members. The Government are continuing efforts for building up solidarity with other likeminded developing countries with a view to facilitate effective projection and protection of Indian national interest in WTO.

Incentives to Food Processing Industries

†4420 SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV : Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given various incentives to the food processing industries in the country to promote export during the last three years.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what has been the value of the exports made from the country during the years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99; and

(d) the amount of investment made, year-wise, during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Government provide assistance under the Plan schemes for development of food processing sector which also include units engaged in export production. The assistance provided in this regard include the following:—

(i) Provision of grant/loan for establishment of post harvest infrastructure and cold chain facilities for food processing, assistance for undertaking Research and Development, human resource development, for development and modernisation of meat processing, strengthening of traditional fish processing technologies and marketing;

(ii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality system such as ISO 9000/HACCP at export units;

(iii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;

(iv) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports.

(c) The value of export of processed food items comprising of processed fruits and vegetables and other processed food items such as jaggery and confectionaries, cocoa products, cereal preparations, alcoholic beverages, milled products, guar gum, groundnuts during the years 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are as follows :—

Year	Value (Rs. Crores)
1995-96	1663.56
1996-97	2309.68
1997-98	2256.37
1998-99	1824.21

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta/APEDA, New Delhi

(d) The inflow of foreign direct investment and domestic investments approved during the year 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 in the food processing industries has been as follows :

Amount : Rs. Crores

Year	Amount of inflow of Foreign Direct Investment	Domestic Investment
1995-96	285.17	3622
1996-97	832.29	3273
1997-98	342.09	1988
1998-99	94.75	2038

(Source : Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion)

Industrial Growth Centres in Gujarat

4421. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of Industrial growth Centres set up in Gujarat;

(b) whether government are contemplating to set up some more Industrial Growth Centres there;

(c) whether any request has been received from the State Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the progress made, so far, and by when these centres are likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : (a) All the three growth centres allotted for Gujarat State under the Growth Centre Scheme have been sanctioned. These are at Vagra (district Bharauch), Palanpur (district Banaskantha) and Gandhidham (district Kutch).

(b) and (c) No additional growth centre for the State of Gujarat is under consideration of the Central Government and also no proposal has been received from the Government of Gujarat.